

ABSTRACT

WA-II-185

Wolf-Browning Farm

1820-1850

Tilghmanton-Boonsboro Vicinity
private

This large two and one half story, ten bay limestone farm house with its nearby outbuildings and stone end bank barn is important as illustrating vernacular architecture of the Cumberland Valley dating from the first half of the 19th century. Constructed in two sections each portion of the structure reflects important early building types. The Wolf family who owned this farm from 1794 to 1929 was active in the history of the nearby Manor Church of the Bretheren.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Wolf-Browning Farm				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Poffenberger and Manor Church Roads				
CITY OR TOWN: Tilghmanton-Boonsboro Vicinity				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Jean P. Browning and Warwick Evans Browning				
STREET AND NUMBER: 5409 Moorland Lane				
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda		STATE: Maryland		20014
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		21740
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 418/574				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 2045				
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		21404

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50% <input type="checkbox"/> Uncluttered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE <p>This farm complex is located south of Manor Church Road and west of Poffenberger Road, near their junction, between Tilghmanton and Boonsboro in Washington County, Maryland. The buildings are placed on a slight rise of ground. The house faces east.</p> <p>The dwelling, constructed of finely coursed local fieldstone is two and one half stories high and ten bays in length. It would appear to have been built in sections. The main section, the north half of the house, consists of five bays with a center entrance. The southern portion of the house also has five bays with the openings less symmetrically arranged. A double porch included under the main roof span extends along the front elevation of this section. Decorative work associated with the masonry at the front elevation includes flat arches with keystones at their center.</p> <p>Most windows have narrow frames finished with ogee curved edges, although some at the side and rear elevations are narrow, finished with a bead while still others at the ground story have wider frames displaying pegged joining. Six over six pane double hung sashes are present at ground and upper story elevations while nine over six pane sashes are located at the main story.</p> <p>The main entrance with a transom is located in the center bay of the northern section. A one bay, flat roofed entrance porch shelters the door. A second entrance is located in the center bay of the rear elevation of the northern section. In the southern section doors are located in the second and fifth bays from the south end of the house. Other doors are located at the second story level and in the rear elevation. All have received little elaboration.</p> <p>The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal and terminates with a tapered barge board set directly against the end walls. Large brick chimneys are located inside each gable end and at the interior of the structure at the jointure of the two sections.</p> <p>The interior of the north section of this house is bisected by a stair and entrance hall. Doors have six low relief panels and are hung from frames with symmetrically molded trim and decorated corner blocks. Fireplace mantels show symmetrically molded trim consistent with that used at the door frames. The north and south sections of the house are divided by a stone wall which extends through the attic to the roof peak. The main story of the south end is divided into two rooms. Woodwork is much plainer than that employed in the north end. A large service fireplace is located inside the south end wall. All interior doors have elbow latch box locks.</p> <p>Near the house are a variety of outbuildings, including a bake oven and smoke house, a blacksmith's shop and a two story spring house. The spring house has a finished upper story and is said to have been used as a school for children of the Wolf family and slave children. It has windows and doors with wide frames and pegged joining. A chimney is located inside its north gable end. East of the house is a large stone end bank barn which faces north. Along the entrance road to this house and leading from the</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | lasophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this complex of buildings is its architecture. It is also important for its association with the Wolf family, builders of the house and prominent early residents of the area who were active in the history of the Manor Church of the Bretheren.

The house and its surrounding buildings are a prime grouping illustrating vernacular architecture of the Cumberland Valley dating from the first half of the 19th century. The north portion of the house represents the five bay, central entrance plan often described as "Pennsylvania Georgian." Structures following this plan, based remotely on the Georgian form, were built extensively throughout Southern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The southern portion of the house is much more primitive than the northern section. Because of its less formal appearance, the south section may seem to be the older portion of the house. However, a more thorough examination of the house, particularly its attic and cellar, is necessary before a suggestion can be made as to which part of the house was built first. According to Maurice J. Henry in his History of the Bretheren Church in Maryland, Daniel Wolf was born "in the large stone house across the meadow from present Manor Church" in 1825.¹ T.J.C. Williams in his History of Washington County gives Daniel Wolf's birth date as 1829.² If either of these sources is correct, at least part of this house was built before 1830, possibly prior to 1825. It would not appear, however, that either section was built much earlier than 1820.

It is important to note the outbuildings in this complex. They are significant reminders and documents of an early 19th century way of life in Western Maryland. Unfortunately many early outbuildings in Washington County have not survived to the present.

In 1794, Jacob Wolf purchased 175 acres of "The Resurvey on Three Springs" from John and Drusilla Booth for £875. (Deed Liber H, Folio 552). According to Henry, a log house was built by Wolf about 300 yards south of Manor Church. Daniel Wolf, grandson of Jacob and son of David Wolf, was born August 11, 1825. He served as minister of the Manor Church beginning in October of 1861.³ He married Ann Maria Rowland in 1850 and had 11 children. Daniel Wolf died in 1899. This property was in the Wolf family until 1929.

¹ J. Maurice Henry, History of the Bretheren Church in Maryland. Elgin, Illinois: Bretheren Publishing House (1936) p. 333.

² T.J.C. Williams, History of Washington County, Vol. II Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., (1906) p. 668

³ Henry. on cit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry, J. Maurice, History of the Church of the Bretheren in Maryland.
Elgin, Illinois: Bretheren Publishing House (1936) p. 333.

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, T.J.C. History of Washington County. Mail Publishing Co.
Hagerstown, Md. 1906.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **188.0 acres.**

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey	DATE December 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

barn to Manor Church Road are walls of roughly coursed fieldstones.

The house, barn and most of the outbuildings are in excellent condition.
The property contains 188 acres.

Liber Folio
418/574

January 11, 1965

Grantors: Samuel H. Lefver & Ruth L. Lefever
Grantees: Jean Prestone Browning & Warwick Evans Browning
188 acres. "Resurvey On Three Springs."

Liber Folio
200/126

January 2, 1936

Grantor: Berry C. Lefever
Grantee: Joseph J. Borzarger
198 acres.

Liber Folio
182/395

April 1, 1929

Grantors: Emma C. Wolf, Mary Wolf & Elizabeth L. Wolf
Grantees: Joseph J. Borzarger & Blanche R. Borzarger
\$6,250. + mortgage for \$5600.
198 acres.

Liber Folio
140/466

January 28, 1913

Grantors: William R. Wolf & Joseph D. Wolf, executors for Ann Maria Wolf
Grantees: Emma C. Wolf, Mary Wolf & Elizabeth L. Wolf
\$50. per acre - \$9,900. 198 acres.

Liber Folio
102/518

November 7, 1894

Grantor: Daniel Wolf
Grantee: Ann Maria Wolf
198 acres.

Liber Folio
IN6/512

February 13, 1852

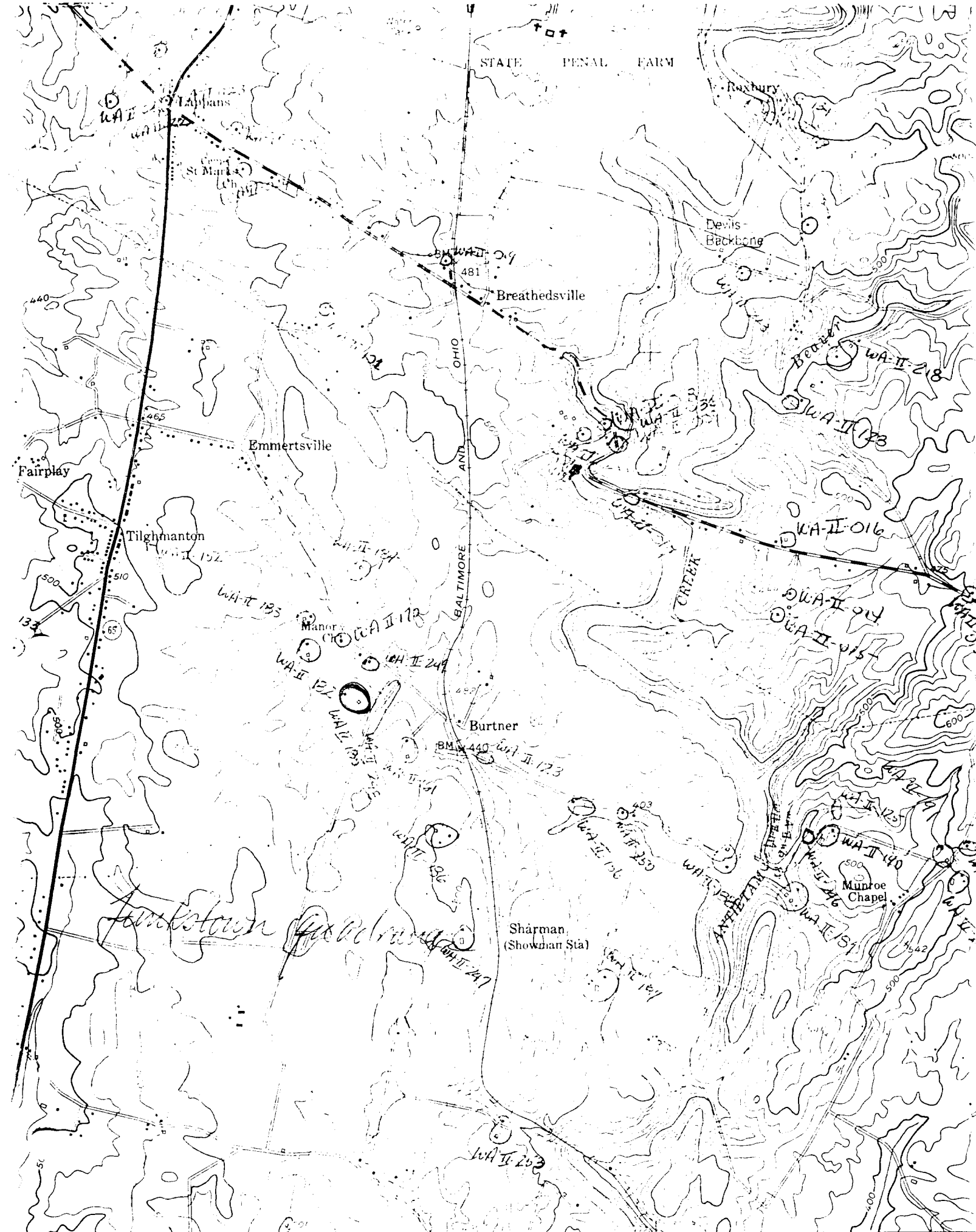
Grantors: John Wolf & Eliza Wolf
Grantee: Daniel Wolf
\$11,613,37½ 209 acres.

Liber Folio
H/552

March 13, 1794

Grantors: John Booth & Drusilla Booth
Grantee: Jacob Wolf
£875. 175 acres. "Resurvey On Three Springs."

WA-II-185



WA II-185



WA-II-185

S.L.

Oct. 1975

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



64-11-18

1. 2.

64-11-18

PAULA STONER DITKEY
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-135

Outbuilding #1

N/E

Oct 1915

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-V-183

Outbuilding H. 2 S.W.

Oct. 1975

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



1913-1915

Barren N.W.

1913-1915

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



04-11-85

possible road

at view

11/16/1915

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY